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(Aruba Today Photo/Alberto Arrindell)
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Prosecutor charges 6 Baltimore officers in Gray's death



Marilyn Mosby, Baltimore state's attorney, speaks during a media availability, Friday, May 1, 2015 in Baltimore. Mosby announced criminal charges against all six officers suspended after Freddie Gray suffered a fatal spinal injury while in police custody.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

**JULIET LINDERMAN
AMANDA LEE MYERS
Associated Press**

BALTIMORE (AP) — Saying "no one is above the law," Baltimore's top prosecutor announced charges Friday against six officers in the arrest of a black man whose neck was broken in police custody, a decision that comes amid outrage around the country over police brutality against African-Americans.

State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby said Freddie Gray's death was a homicide, his arrest was illegal, and his treatment amounted to murder and manslaughter. She described what happened to Gray during his arrest and his nearly 45-minute ride in a police wagon, contradicting what police have said on some points. Gray carried a legal pocket knife, she said, not the illegal switchblade that an officer described. And officers repeatedly denied Gray's requests for medical

attention, even when he said he couldn't breathe. At one point, he was shackled at the legs, handcuffed behind his back, and put back into the wagon on his stomach.

At another stop, an officer "spoke to the back of Mr. Gray's head," and even though he was unresponsive, made "no effort to look or assess or determine his condition," Mosby said. Onlookers cheered shouted "Justice!" during Mosby's announcement. Few expected such quick action. The city, which saw looting and businesses and cars burned on Monday, remains under a nighttime curfew, with National Guard troops and police out in full force and huge protests expected Friday and Saturday. More than 200 people have been arrested and nearly 100 officers injured in the unrest following Gray's funeral.

Malik Shabazz, the president of Black Lawyers for

Justice, says Saturday's protest will now be a "victory rally," and said Mosby is "setting a standard for prosecutors all over the nation."

Mosby announced the charges less than a day after receiving the results of an internal police investigation and the autopsy report.

The stiffest charge, second-degree "depraved heart" murder, was filed against the driver of the police van. The other five were charged with crimes including manslaughter, assault, false imprisonment and misconduct in office.

A lawyer for some of the officers accused Mosby of a rush to judgment that raises grave concerns about the integrity of the prosecution. "The officers did nothing wrong," Attorney Michael Davey said Friday afternoon. "These injuries did not occur as a result of any action or inaction on the part of these officers."

President Barack Obama said he doesn't comment on the legal process, but it's "absolutely vital that the truth comes out."

Mosby said Each of the five officers who accused of assaulting Gray faces up to 10 years if convicted of second-degree assault. The van driver faces up to 30 years on the murder charge, and 10 years each for involuntary manslaughter, assault and "man-

slaughter by vehicle."

All of the officers also face a charge of misconduct in office.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said these charges should lead to a change in culture for the police.

"To those of you who wish to engage in brutality, misconduct, racism and corruption, let me be clear: There is no place in the Baltimore City Police Department for you," she said. □

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Three former allies of Christie charged in bridge scandal



David Wildstein, left, listens in as his attorney Alan Zegas reads a statement to the media after his first appearance at Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Courthouse in Newark, N.J. Friday, May 1, 2015. Wildstein pleaded guilty Friday to helping engineer traffic jams at the George Washington Bridge in a political payback scheme he said also involved two other Christie loyalists. But he did not publicly implicate Christie himself.

(AP Photo/Rich Schultz)

JILL COLVIN
JOSH CORNFELD
Associated Press
NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Federal prosecutors brought charges Friday against three former allies of Gov. Chris Christie, but not Christie himself, in a bridge traffic scandal that has hung over the Republican's 2016 White House

ambitions for more than a year. One of those charged, David Wildstein, a former high-ranking official at the transportation agency that operates the George Washington Bridge to New York City, pleaded guilty, saying he and the other defendants engineered huge traffic jams to get

even with a local Democratic mayor.

Christie was not implicated in court or in the indictments.

"Based on the evidence currently available to us, we're not going to charge anyone else in this scheme," U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman said at a news conference.

The governor claimed vindication.

"Today's charges make clear that what I've said from day one is true: I had no knowledge or involvement in the planning or execution of this act," Christie said in a statement.

Wildstein, a former official at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, pleaded guilty to conspiracy, saying in court that he and the other Christie loy-

alists closed lanes and created gridlock in September 2013 as political payback.

The closing of two of three access lanes caused huge traffic jams at one of the busiest spans in the nation. School buses and emergency vehicles were held up, and commuters were stuck in traffic for hours over four mornings.

Wildstein said the three of them concocted a cover story: It was all part of a traffic study.

Essentially, all three defendants were accused of misusing public resources for political gain.

They "callously victimized" people who were "just trying to get to school or go to work," Fishman said.

While Christie may be out of any immediate legal danger, politically it could

be more complicated. The charges put the scandal back in the news just as the presidential cycle is getting underway and other candidates are jumping into the race.

Wildstein could face about two years in prison at sentencing Aug. 6. The two people he implicated — former Christie deputy chief of staff Bridget Kelly and Bill Baroni, the governor's top appointee at the Port Authority — were charged in an indictment unsealed Friday.

Kelly and Baroni are due in court Monday on charges including conspiracy, fraud and deprivation of civil rights. The charges carry a combined 86 years in prison, though any sentence would almost certainly be much shorter. □



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Feds to change ivory rule enforcement after bagpipes seized

RIK STEVENS

Associated Press

CONCORD, New Hampshire (AP) —

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is looking for a little harmony over rules used to enforce a ban on ivory that ended up snagging a pair of teenage bagpipers at the Canadian border.

In August, Campbell Webster and Eryk Bean of New Hampshire were returning from a competition in Canada when their pipes were taken. The reason: They

contained small pieces of ivory. The U.S. prohibits importing ivory taken after 1976.

Even though the boys had certificates showing the bagpipes' ivory was harvested before 1976, a combination of required paperwork and the type of border crossing they used caused U.S. Customs and Border Protection to seize the pipes at Highgate Springs, Vermont.

The teenagers contacted New Hampshire's congress-



Campbell Webster poses Friday May 1, 2015 in Nashua, N.H. with his bagpipe made in 1906 with ivory projecting mounts and ferrules. Webster and Eryk Bean were returning to the United States from a competition in Canada in August when their pipes were taken because they contained pieces of ivory. The U.S. prohibits importing ivory taken after 1976.

(AP Photo/Jim Cole)

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sional delegation, their predicament sparked an online petition and they shelled out \$576 in extra fees to get their pipes back the next day, just in time to fly to Scotland for the world championships, where they placed ninth.

Craig Hoover, chief of the wildlife trade and conservation branch in the Fish and Wildlife Service's division of management authority and international affairs, said this week that the ivory ban will remain in place but the new rule will make accommodations for things like musical instruments.

"The criteria caused some concern," Hoover said. "We met with the League of American Orchestras

and based on those concerns, we made some changes."

Hoover said he couldn't provide specifics of the rule changes because they're still making their way through other government agencies that will need to weigh in.

Once the new rule is proposed, it will be open to a 60-day public comment period before a final rule is proposed and any decision made, a process that could take several months, Hoover said.

"Our goal is to harmonize our regulations across these various pieces of ivory restrictions," he said.

Musicians will still require a certificate showing the ivory in their instrument was

harvested before 1976 but Hoover said the agency will propose specific ways to allow certain activities to continue.

"Particularly those that involve a small amount of ivory," he said.

The agency has already issued about 70 certificates to cart ivory across the border this year, Hoover said.

Campbell Webster, who at 18 is now the youngest professional piper in the states, was relieved at the proposed rule change. He's been playing the bagpipes for 14 years and the 1936 set that was seized belonged to his father, Gordon Webster, who was the 9th Sovereign Piper to her Majesty the Queen of England Elizabeth II. □



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US Financial Front:

Consumer sentiment rises on optimism over job market

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Optimism about the job market lifted U.S. consumer sentiment in April to its second-highest level since 2007.

The University of Michigan's sentiment index rose to 95.9 from 93 in March. Only January's reading of 98.1 has been higher since 2007, the year the Great Recession began. Over the past five months, sentiment has been, on average, at its highest level since 2004.

Richard Curtin, chief economist of the Michigan survey, attributed the April increase to optimism over consistently low inflation and low interest rates and improving prospects for jobs and incomes.

Curtin said consumers expect interest rates to rise from current historically low levels but only modestly. And they expect any economic damage from higher rates to be offset by the benefits of more jobs and incomes.

Since March 2014, the U.S. economy has produced



a healthy 3.1 million job gains. The government said Wednesday that the economy grew at an annual rate of just 0.2 percent from January through March. But economists expect growth to strengthen in the spring.

"Consumers appear to be shrugging off recently disappointing economic data and stock market choppiness," Jim Baird, chief investment officer for Plante Moran Financial Advisors, said in a research note. "Despite evidence that the economy slowed considerably in the first quarter, sentiment remains relatively high and suggests that the important consumer spending engine isn't at risk of stalling." □

Lucy Perez, of Charlotte, N.C., pumps gas at a station in Matthews, N.C. The University of Michigan issued its monthly index of consumer sentiment for April on Friday, May 1, 2015.

(AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

U.S. construction spending drops 0.6 percent in March

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. construction fell in March as an increase in nonresidential construction was offset by declines in home building and government projects.

Construction spending dropped 0.6 percent to a seasonally adjusted \$966.6 billion in March after a flat reading in February, the Commerce Department reported Friday.

Construction activity has fallen or shown no gain in four of the past five months, underscoring the economic toll from a severe winter. For March, housing construction dropped 1.6 as both single-family construction and apartment building contracted. It was the biggest slide since last June. Spending on government projects fell 1.5 percent, the third straight decline.

The one good news in March was a 1 percent rise in nonresidential construc-

tion, with gains in hotels and office buildings.

Economists are forecasting a rebound in coming months as warmer weather boosts activity.

The government reported Wednesday that the overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew at a meager annual rate of 0.2 percent in the January-March quarter. The weakness stemmed in large part from a big drop in business investment spending on structures, which dropped at an annual rate of 23.1 percent. Much of that reflected cutbacks in drilling and exploration by energy companies in response to the sharp declines in energy prices.

Residential construction also slowed, growing at a modest annual rate of 1.3 percent in the first quarter, the weakest performance in a year.

Economists are looking for growth to strengthen in the April-June quarter. □







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US, Canada unveil new rules to boost oil train safety

M. BROWN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rail tank cars used to transport crude oil and many other flammable liquids will have to be built to stronger standards to reduce the risk of a catastrophic train crash and fire, under sweeping new safety rules unveiled Friday by U.S. and Canadian transportation officials. The regulations are a long-awaited response to a series of fiery train crashes in the U.S. and Canada, including four so far this year. The most serious accident occurred in July 2013, when a runaway oil train derailed in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, just across the



Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and Canada's Minister of Transport Lisa Raitt, participate in a news conference at the Transportation Department in Washington, Friday, May 1, 2015, to announce that rail tank cars that are used to transport most crude oil and many other flammable liquids will have to be built to stronger standards to reduce the risk of catastrophic train crash and fire.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

border from Maine, killing 47 people and destroying most of the town's central business district.

"I witnessed Lac-Mégantic firsthand, and I believe that we truly have to act to honor those who died and honor those who were injured" to show that safety is "our most important priority in transportation," said Canada's Minister of Transport, Lisa Raitt. She joined Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx in announcing the new regulations.

Under the rules, new tank cars carrying the most volatile liquids, including crude oil and ethanol, must have an outer shell, a thermal lining to withstand fire,

improved top and bottom fittings and thicker, 9/16ths-inch steel walls to keep them from rupturing.

Thousands of older tank cars known as DOT-111s that are more prone to rupture will be the first to be phased out or retrofitted under a timetable ranging from three to ten years. Some newer tank cars, called 1232s, that were built to a voluntary standard agreed to by the industry in 2011 must also be phased out or retrofitted.

Defending the timetable, Foxx said officials took into account how long it will take manufacturers to produce tank cars to the new standard. □



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Nearly a week after quake, Nepal still needs tents, food



Elderly villagers start their 12 mile hike back up to their mountain home with international relief aid they received in the damaged village of Balua, near the epicenter of Saturday's massive earthquake, in the Gorkha District of Nepal.

(AP Photo/Wally Santana)

B. GURUBACHARYA

F. KLUG

Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) —

Nearly a week after a massive earthquake killed more than 6,200 people and collapsed buildings, temples and homes, Nepal still urgently needs basic aid like shelter and food, while remote villages remain cut off from help.

Aid workers still face "immense logistical challenges," U.N. humanitarian chief Valerie Amos said Friday, noting that the scale of the devastation in Nepal would be an obstacle for any government.

The U.N. has estimated the magnitude-7.8 quake that struck April 25 affected 8.1 million people — more than a fourth of Nepal's population of 27.8 million.

In Kathmandu, rescue workers in orange jumpsuits continued to search through collapsed buildings, but fewer tents were standing in a central part of the capital that had been packed with people in the first few days. Some residents who had been fearful of aftershocks have left the city or moved elsewhere.

The government announced it was giving the equivalent of \$1,000 to families of each person killed and another \$400 for funeral costs, state-run Nepal Radio said Friday.

More than 130,000 houses were destroyed in the quake, according to the U.N. humanitarian office. Near the epicenter, north of Kathmandu, whole villages were in ruins, and residents were in desperate need of temporary shelters against the rain and cold.

Isolated hamlets are still cut off because scarce helicopters can't land in some mountainous areas, and roads have often been destroyed, said Amos, who flew over some of those places during a three-day visit.

"Of course we are worried that it is taking so long to get to people who desperately need aid. Some of those villages are virtually flattened. But it's very, very hard to see how we're going to get to them," she said.

Some villagers might be able to walk to a place where the aid helicopters could land, but that would be of little help to those

who are injured, she added.

Tents and tarpaulins are the most urgent need, but there's also a demand for water, food, health care and better sanitation. Debris must be removed, bodies recovered, and officials need to determine which

buildings are too dangerous to enter, Amos said.

In the past 48 hours, the U.N. Children's Fund, or UNICEF, has delivered nearly 30 metric tons of supplies, including tents, water purification tablets and first aid and hygiene kits.

Nepal Information Minister

Minedra Risal said 400,000 tents are needed immediately, but that the country has only been able to provide 29,000 thus far.

In addition to tents and tarpaulins, the government appealed to international donors to send foodstuffs like grain, salt and sugar. □

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Saudi-Yemen border clash kills 3 Saudi troops, Yemeni rebels

AYA BATRAWY
AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press
RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)

— Yemen's Shiite rebels attacked Saudi border posts, sparking fierce fighting overnight that killed three Saudi troops and dozens of rebels, the kingdom said. Saudi-led airstrikes continued to bomb rebel positions inside Yemen on Friday, including a strike in the capital, Sanaa, that killed at least 20 civilians. The attack late Thursday by the rebels, known as Houthis, was the most dramatic border incident since Saudi Arabia launched an intense campaign of airstrikes against the rebels just over a month ago. It also brought to 11 the number of Saudi soldiers killed

so far in border skirmishes during the air campaign. The assault underscored how the Iran-backed Houthis are still capable of launching major operations despite the airstrikes that have relentlessly targeted their positions and those of their allies — military units loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The Saudi-led offensive, which started March 26, aims to diminish the military capabilities of the Houthis, who have overrun the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, and are advancing deep into the country's south.

The U.N. says at least 550 civilians have been killed so in the war, whether from airstrikes or ground fighting. Yemen's internationally recognized President Abed

Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who fled the country in March, is now based in the Saudi capital of Riyadh, along with most of his government. There have been recent calls by officials in exile for a Saudi-led ground invasion to restore Hadi's government to power.

"There must be a direct military intervention ... to stop Saleh and the Houthis," Yemen's Transportation Minister Mohammed Badr Basalma told Al-Arabiya satellite TV on Friday, speaking from Riyadh.

Also Friday, the U.N. Security Council held an emergency meeting on Yemen, following warnings by U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon who said the previous day that basic services in the impoverished Arab country are

"on the brink of collapse." Ban also called for an immediate ceasefire, or at least humanitarian pauses to help the desperate civilians.

The meeting, however, ended with the 15 Security Council members unable to agree on an immediate statement on the growing crisis.

There have been conflicting figures on the death toll since the air campaign started. Ban's office said Thursday that more than 1,200 people have been killed in the conflict, which has turned into a kind of proxy war between Yemen's powerful neighbor Saudi Arabia and Iran. Many of those dead have been civilians. Hadi's government in exile says at least 1,000 civilians have died.

On Friday, the Saudi-led coalition continued to pound rebel positions. One airstrike targeted a house of a top Houthi rebel commander in Sanaa's Saawan district, demolishing at least six houses and killing at least 20 civilians, including 10 women and children, officials and witnesses told an Associated Press reporter at the scene.

In the southern port city of Aden — Hadi's base before he fled to Riyadh — and in the city of Taiz, warplanes bombed positions of the Houthis and Saleh's forces killing scores of fighters, according to security officials. At least 12 people were killed because of ground fighting in Aden on Friday, according to medical officials who did not elaborate. □



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Baghdad officials blame Sunni displaced for recent bombings

SAMEER N. YACIOUB
PAUL SCHEMM
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's Sunnis fleeing the fighting in western Anbar province have provided a cover for Islamic State militants to carry out a wave of bombings that struck Baghdad, political and security officials in the Iraqi capital claimed on Friday — an assertion vigorously disputed by Sunni lawmakers. The spike in bombings in Baghdad in the past week, with multiple blasts each day, has raised residents' suspicions over the flood of displaced fleeing the fighting in nearby Anbar province. On Thursday night alone six bombings killed 21 people and wounded scores. Fighting in Anbar's provin-

cial capital of Ramadi sent at least 110,000 refugees fleeing towards Baghdad over the past two weeks and they are now living on the outskirts of the city.

"We cannot deny the fact that there is a link between the recent attacks in Baghdad and the entry of displaced families from Anbar, which has been used by the terrorists to send large amounts of explosives and Daesh members into Baghdad," Baghdad council member Ghalib al-Zamili told The Associated Press, referring to the Islamic State group by its Arab acronym.

One of Thursday's car bombs in Baghdad was traced to one of the displaced who recently arrived in the city, added al-Zamili. □

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Despite protests, Expo 2015 a potential diplomatic setting

COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — The Expo 2015 world's fair showed potential as a backdrop for serious diplomacy as it opened Friday for a six-month run, even as it also served as a lightning rod for anti-globalization protests.

North Korea stepped out of its isolation as a last-minute participant, and there are signs that Turkey may use the occasion to reach out to the Vatican weeks after it recalled its ambassador to the Holy See over the pope describing the slaughter of Armenians by Ottoman Turks as genocide. With food as the theme of this year's event, culinary delights from host Italy and beyond will be one of the main draws for the fair's hoped-for 20 million visitors. But the Milan Expo already had greater ambitions, with the Italian government backing a process to create a document of solutions to fight hunger and food waste, among other goals.



Activists throw flares and objects towards police as clashes broke out with police during a protest against the Expo 2015 fair in Milan, Italy, Friday, May 1, 2015. The Expo 2015 world's fair opened Friday for a six-month run and its theme is "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life".

(AP Photo/Riccardo De Luca)

A violent protest Friday, however, left torched cars, smashed bank and shop windows and other damage in the streets of downtown Milan, far from Expo's sprawling grounds on the financial capital's outskirts. Protesters split

off from a generally non-violent march a few hours after Italian Premier Matteo Renzi inaugurated the fair. Police fired tear gas and sprayed water after protesters, many wearing scarves or hoods to mask their faces, tossed bottles

and incendiary devices, set cars and garbage bins afire and smashed pavement. Firefighters worked to extinguish the blazes. Milan police said 11 officers were injured and that an unspecified number of protesters

were detained.

Some marchers' placards protested a high-speed rail line being built in northern Italy as well as Expo 2015 and other "big projects."

With millions of visitors expected to come to Milan for Expo in the coming months, Milan Mayor Giuliano Pisapia said "the delinquents devastating Milan (will) be isolated, identified and punished" without exception.

Bracing for any more violence, police presided over intersections leading to Milan's La Scala opera house, where "Turandot," with a VIP audience, was on the program Friday evening. Only theater workers and those with tickets were being allowed to approach the theater.

In a peaceful protest Thursday by students, participants opposed the inclusion of food corporations like Coca Cola, Nestle and McDonald's in the fair. Protester Selam Tesfai said those companies don't adhere to the Expo's slogans of "feeding the planet" and "energy for life." □

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May Day demonstrations staged around the world



Cuba's President Raul Castro, center right, lifts the arm of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, as they watch the May Day parade at Revolution Square, in Havana, Cuba, Friday, May 1, 2015. Thousands of people converged on the plaza despite the rain for the traditional march. Also pictured are Workers' Union chief Ulises Guilarte, left, and First Vice President of the Council of State Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, second right.

(AP Photo/Desmond Boylan)

HAVANA (AP) — Left-wing groups, governments and trade unions were staging rallies around the world Friday to mark International Workers Day. Most events were peaceful protests for workers' rights and world peace. But May

1 regularly sees clashes between police and militant groups in some cities. International Workers Day originates in the United States. American unions first called for the introduction of an eight-hour working day in

the second half of the 19th century. A general strike was declared to press these demands, starting May 1, 1886. The idea spread to other countries and since then workers around the world have held protests on May 1 every year, al-

though the U.S. celebrates Labor Day on the first Monday in September. Here's a look at some of the May Day events around the world:

CUBA

Thousands of people converged on Havana's Plaza of the Revolution for the traditional May Day march, led this year by President Raul Castro and Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

After attending Cuba's celebration, Maduro was to fly back to Caracas to attend the May Day observances in his own country.

The parade featured a group of doctors who were sent to Africa to help in the fight against Ebola. Marchers waved little red, white and blue Cuban flags as well as posters with photos of revolutionary leader Fidel Castro, his brother Raul, and the late Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez.

Additional marches were held in major cities around the island, including Santiago and Holguin in the east.

TURKEY

Police and May Day demonstrators clashed in Istanbul as crowds determined to defy a government ban tried to march to the city's iconic Taksim Square. Security forces pushed back demonstrators using water cannons and tear gas.

Protesters retaliated by throwing stones and hurling firecrackers at police. Authorities have blocked the square that is symbolic as the center of protests in which 34 people were killed in 1977.

Turkish newswires say that 10,000 police officers were stationed around the square Friday.

The demonstrations are the first large-scale protests since the government passed a security bill this year giving police expanded powers to crack down on protesters.

SOUTH KOREA

Thousands of people marched in the capital Seoul on Friday for a third

week to protest government labor policies and the handling of a ferry disaster that killed more than 300 people a year ago.

Demonstrators occupied several downtown streets and sporadically clashed with police officers. Protesters tried to move buses used to block their progress. Police responded by spraying tear gas. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

South Korean labor groups have been denouncing a series of government policies they believe will reduce wages, job security and retirement benefits for state employees.

PHILIPPINES

More than 10,000 workers and activists marched in Manila and burned an effigy of Philippine President Benigno Aquino III to protest low wages and a law allowing employers to hire laborers for less than six months to avoid giving benefits received by regular workers.

Workers in metropolitan Manila now receive 481 pesos (\$10.80) in daily minimum wage after a 15 peso (\$0.34) increase in March. Although it is the highest rate in the country, it is still "a far cry from being decent," says Lito Ustarez, vice chairman of the left-wing May One Movement.

GREECE

In financially struggling Greece, an estimated 13,000 people took part in three separate May Day marches in Athens, carrying banners and shouting anti-austerity slogans.

Minor clashes broke out at the end of the peaceful marches, when a handful of hooded youths threw a petrol bomb at riot police. No injuries or arrests were reported.

Earlier, ministers from the governing radical left Syriza party joined protesters gathering for the marches, including Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis — who was mobbed by media and admirers — and the ministers of labor and energy. □

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ORANJESTAD - On a perfect breezy, sunny Labor Day the King and Queen of the Netherlands visited the island of Aruba to proudly celebrate 200 years of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and to commemorate 350 years of the Royal Dutch Marine Corps. Especially for this huge event the government of Aruba created the very first "Sail Aruba". On Labor Day all shops and schools are closed and that allowed the general public of Aruba to come and enjoy a family fun filled day at the harbor. Many visitors were dressed in orange, the official color of the Dutch soccer team to show support to the Motherland. People enjoyed passing by the stands with handcrafted items, food, enjoyed military trainings and admired the many ships that were passing by saluting King Willem-Alexander with official cannon shots. And of course Queen Maxima looked stunning as always being photographed by many. This weekend will be filled with activities like free movies on a sail in cinema with a variety of movies like: Soldaat van Oranje, Jaws and Pirates of the Caribbean. Don't miss this well orga-



nized event, be a part of it, mingle with the locals in down town areas like the harbor, Seaport Marketplace and Seaport Marina! (Aruba Today Photos) □



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ORANJESTAD - Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring Mr. Raymond and Mrs. Prestine Lessard, residents of Bedford, New Hampshire, for returning to Aruba for 10 years consecutive.

The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture Mr. O. Oduber as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years.

The certificate was presented by Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mr. Tino Daal from the Activities desk of the Renaissance Resort.

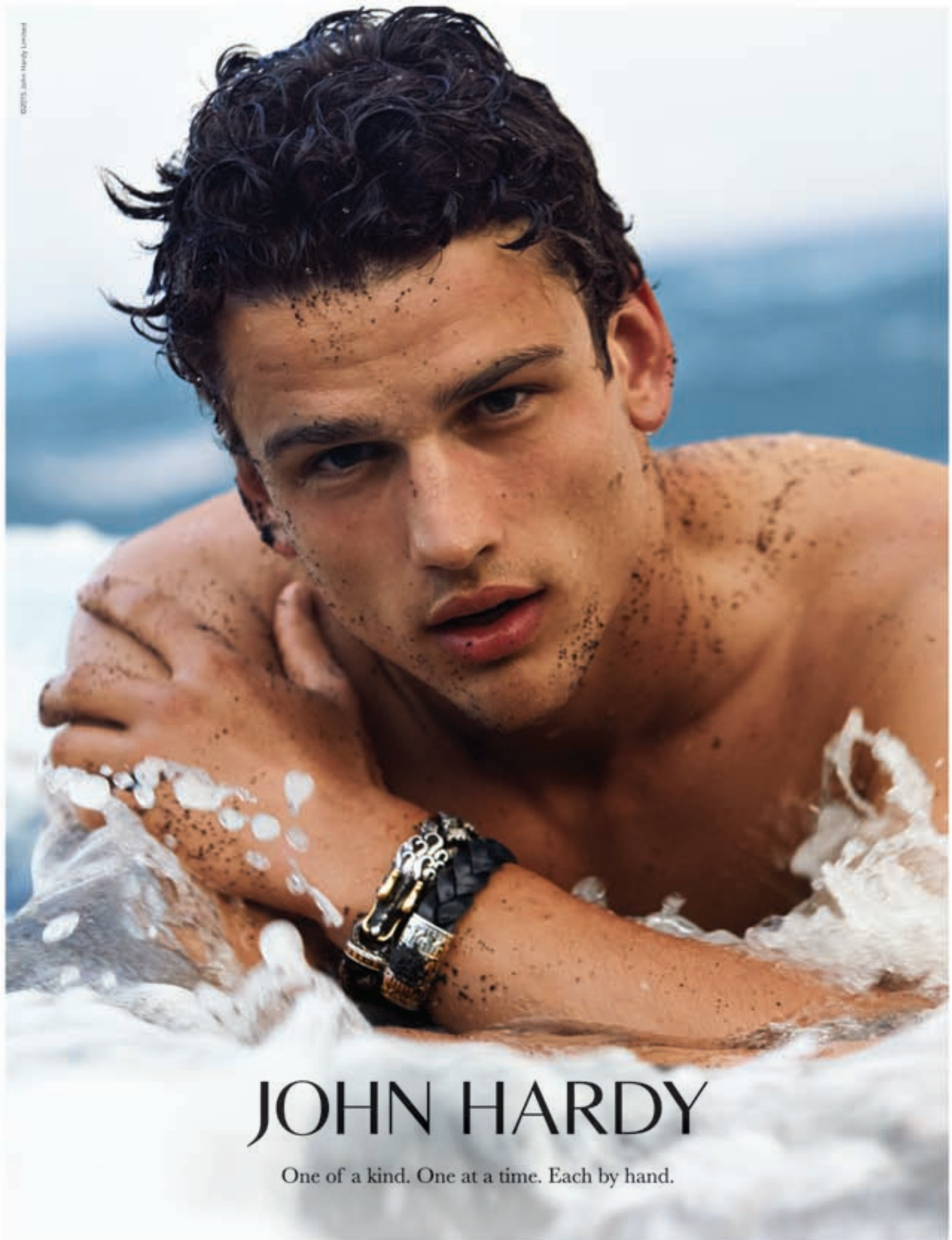
The top reasons for returning provided by the honorees are that they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island," the fantastic sunsets, the beautiful blue ocean, the friendly Aruban



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The Care Foundation by Marriott Associates Teamed Up With Funeral Directors Group to Build Greenhouse for Imelda Hof



PALM BEACH - Recently Funeral Directors Group, an American incentive group staying at the Aruba Marriott, approached the Care Foundation by Marriott Associates to team up to plant a seed of hope at Imelda Hof. This was a thoughtful initiative from the Funeral Directors Group who kindly chose to include a day dedicated to solely volunteer work in their vacation itinerary while in Aruba and the Care Foundation by Marriott Associates was more than pleased to join



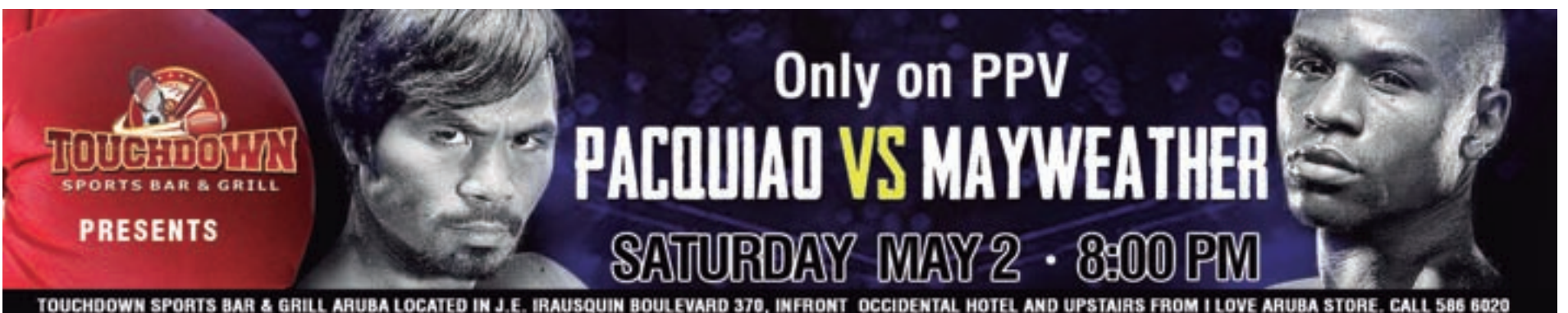
such a beautiful project. With over 60 volunteers from the Funeral Directors

Group and 15 volunteers from the Care Foundation by Marriott Associates,

everyone enthusiastically joined as one to clean the houses and garden at Imelda Hof as well as construct a greenhouse where the children can cultivate their own fruits and veggies. To make the day extra special for the youngsters, a fun filled afternoon was organized where they got to enjoy a number of amusing water activities and delightful treats. "The Care Foundation by Marriott Associates' main focus this year is the youth and this was the ideal opportunity to build some-

thing special for them. Something they can feel proud of when they harvest the fruits of their own seeds" says Jasmin Olde Riekerink-Maduro, President of Care Foundation by Marriott Associates. About the Care Foundation by Marriott Associates: Founded in 1999 by the associates of the Aruba Marriott, the foundation has been actively contributing to the Aruban community for the past sixteen years. It embodies a living and breathing sentiment and "Spirit to Serve" within the associates who fund the Foundation through direct personal financial contributions. □





Just what kind of fight will Mayweather-Pacquiao be?



In this April 12, 2014 file photo, Manny Pacquiao, right, of the Philippines, trades blows with Timothy Bradley, in their WBO welterweight title boxing match in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Five years in the making, Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao meet Saturday night in the richest — and arguably most overhyped — fight in the history of the sport.

Their styles have been analyzed endlessly and their minds dissected as much as possible. And it still remains anyone's guess just what kind of fight this will be.

Will Pacquiao score early and often to beat a fighter who has never been

beaten? Will Mayweather risk standing and trading punches, or be content to use his defensive wizardry to win for the 48th straight time?

Will boxing get the fight the hype deserves, and the sport desperately needs? The fight is for the welterweight championship of the world, but in reality it's much more. Mayweather will be risking his legacy against arguably the best opponent of his career, while Pacquiao will carry the weight of an entire nation into the ring at the MGM Grand arena.

"Everyone talks about the money, the money, the money," Mayweather said. "I want the fight to live up to its magnitude. That's what it's really about."

Whether Mayweather actually believes that or is trying to sell pay-per-views — at a record price of \$99.95 — won't be known until after the two men enter the ring sometime after 8 p.m. PDT. In past fights he's worried more about protecting his unblemished record than he has pleasing the fans who pay to watch him fight.

But he has clearly bulked up for this fight, returning to some old ways by chopping up tree trunks to gain muscle. He's going to be the bigger fighter in the ring, and he's going to have a chance to impose his will on Pacquiao if needed.

"Floyd Mayweather is going to try and take Manny Pacquiao's head off," said Mayweather's promoter, Leonard Ellerbe. "You can

count on that happening. He'll do it in a manner where he follows a game plan, but Floyd Mayweather is looking to finish him off and I strongly believe that will happen."

Odds makers don't believe, making it a 3-1 favorite that the fight will go at least until late in the 12th round. The argument can be made that Mayweather hasn't legitimately knocked out an opponent since he stopped Ricky Hatton in 2007, and feels no pressure to do so with Pacquiao despite a payday that will likely be at least \$180 million.

"I truly believe I'm the smarter fighter," Mayweather said. "He would be a better fighter if he wasn't so reckless. It's a gift and it's a curse. He's won a lot of fights by being reckless, but you can be reckless and get knocked out. And getting knocked out in a harsh way can affect you in the long run."

Pacquiao, of course, has been knocked out, in the harshest of ways.

He was on the attack in the sixth round of his December 2012 fight with Juan Manuel Marquez when a right hand from Marquez left him face down and unconscious on the canvas. To beat Mayweather, though, Pacquiao will have to risk getting hit. More importantly, he'll have to figure out how to get to Mayweather without taking big damage in return.

Continued on next page

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Continued from page 17

"He is a little bit bigger but like David and Goliath, size doesn't matter," Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach said. "We are the better puncher and we are faster and have a much better resume."

For the first time in his career, Pacquiao studied video — and a lot of it — of an opponent. He and Roach spent hours trying to figure out how Mayweather sets traps for his opponent, then lures them in to get hit.

They're prepared for that, but they're also prepared if Mayweather becomes a different fighter in the biggest night of his career.

"I get the feeling they might start fast because he's put a lot of muscle on," Roach said. "I think he might try and catch us cold, but that won't happen. But I think he will come out and try to fight us."

If that happens, it might be because the fight took so long to make. Neither fighter has the same speed or reflexes they had five years ago, which some believe may play into Pacquiao's hands because Mayweather doesn't have the legs at the age of 38 to move around the ring for 12 rounds.

Assuming that proves true, there won't be many people complaining about paying \$10,000 for ringside seats or the price of a pay-

per-view at home.

"I think for pure boxing people it's going to be a fantastic, amazing boxing match," former heavyweight champion George Foreman said. "I think it's one that will live up to all the hype. It really will."

The fighters themselves tend to agree.

"I've never wanted to win

a fight this bad in my life," Mayweather said.

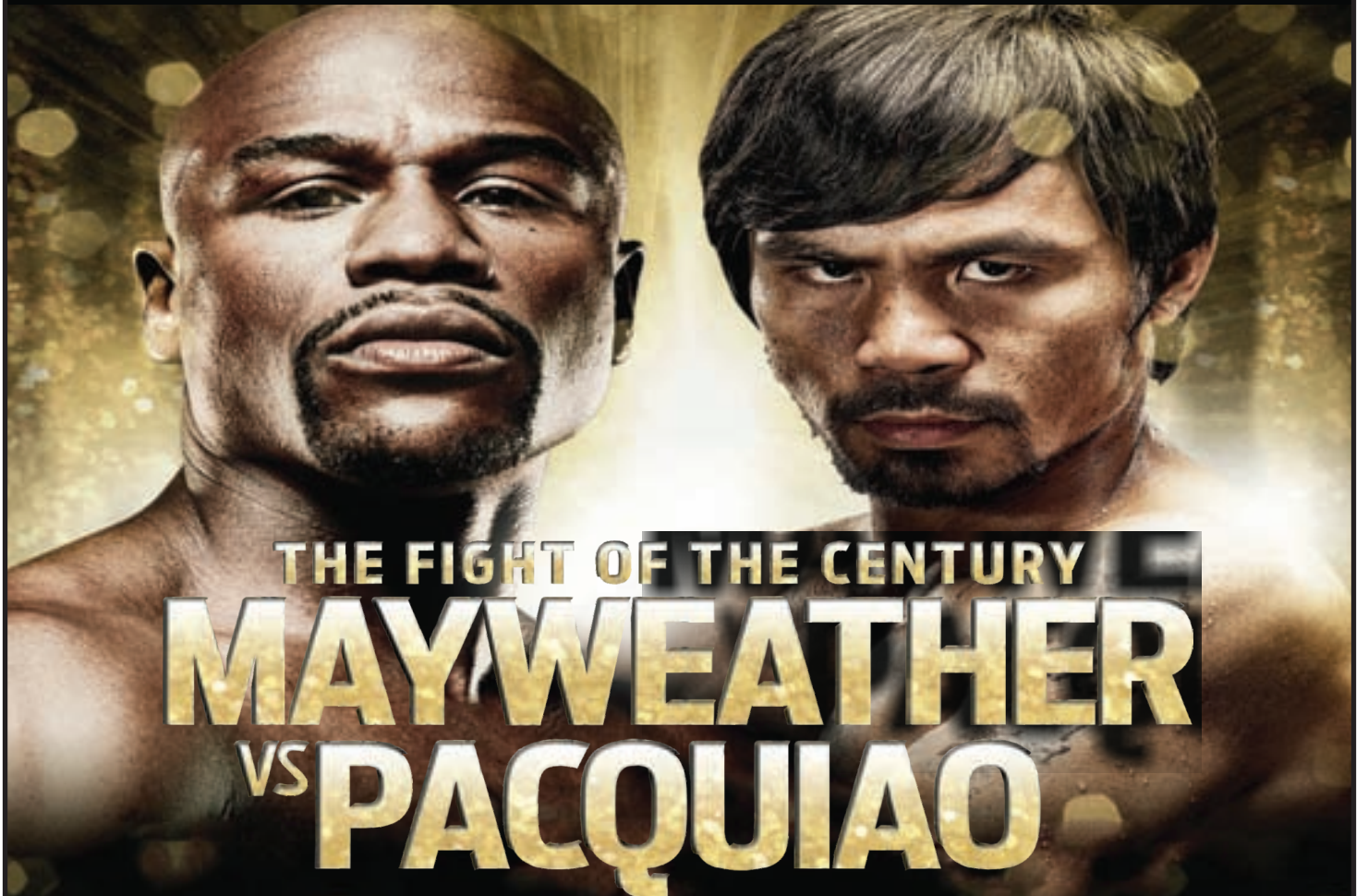
"I know I'm going to win the fight in the ring," Pacquiao told a crowd of supporters this week. "So relax." □

In this Sept. 14, 2013, file photo, Floyd Mayweather Jr., right, throws a punch against Canelo Alvarez during a 152-pound title fight in Las Vegas.

Associated Press



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NHL Playoffs

Capitals edge Rangers, Ducks rout Flames in 2nd round

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Joel Ward scored with 1.3 seconds left to give the Washington Capitals a 2-1 victory over the New York Rangers on Thursday night in Game 1 of their second-round series.

Ward drove to the net and tapped Alex Ovechkin's feed past Henrik Lundqvist. After the goal was confirmed by replay, Ovechkin kissed Ward on the cheek.

Following a mostly ceremonial faceoff, the teams skirmished at center ice.

Ovechkin opened the scoring on a power play with 1:47 remaining in the first period. Jesper Fast tied it with 4:39 left in the third, tipping Kevin Hayes' point shot past goalie Braden Holtby.

Holtby made 31 saves, and Lundqvist stopped 27 shots.

Game 2 is Saturday at Madison Square Garden.



The Washington Capitals celebrate a goal by right wing Joel Ward as New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist (30) looks on during the third period of Game 1 in the second round of the NHL Stanley Cup hockey playoffs Thursday, April 30, 2015, in New York. The Capitals won 2-1.

Associated Press

DUCKS 6, FLAMES 1

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Corey Perry had two goals and two assists and Anaheim routed Calgary in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinal series.

Ryan Getzlaf had a goal and three assists, and Matt Beleskey, Patrick Maroon and Emerson Etem also scored for the top-seeded Ducks, who had a seven-day layoff following their first-round sweep of Winnipeg.

Game 2 is Sunday night back at Honda Center, where the Flames haven't won since the 2006 playoffs and have lost 20 consecutive regular-season games since January 2004.

The six goals tied a Ducks playoff record. Frederik Andersen made 23 saves, losing his bid for his first NHL playoff shutout when Sam Bennett ended the scoring with 10:44 remaining.

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Bulls clobber Bucks 120-66 to advance

The Associated Press
MILWAUKEE (AP) — Mike Dunleavy scored 20 points and Chicago came close to an NBA playoff record, finally putting away Milwaukee with a 120-66 victory in Game 6 to clinch their first-round series Thursday night. The Bulls, who move on to face the Cleveland Cavaliers in the second round, finished four points from the NBA playoff record for largest margin of victory. Minnesota beat St. Louis 133-75 on March 19, 1956. The game featured plenty of the intensity and bad blood that marked the first five games of the series and Dunleavy was in the middle of much of it. He drew the foul that led to the ejection of Milwaukee's Giannis An-

tetokounmpo for a flagrant 2 foul just before halftime. Pau Gasol scored 19 points and Jimmy Butler added 16 for the Bulls, who led the series 3-0. No Bucks starter scored more than ZaZa Pachulia's eight points. It was the biggest playoff loss in team history. The Bucks lost by 36 points at New York in 1970.
CLIPPERS 102, SPURS 96
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Blake Griffin had 26 points and 12 rebounds and Chris Paul had 19 points and 15 assists as Los Angeles held on to force a Game 7 in the first-round series. Marco Belinelli hit two 3-pointers in the final 80 seconds, including one with 14 seconds remaining, to cut the Clippers' lead to 98-96. But Jamal Crawford

Bucks' Michael Carter-Williams and the Bulls' Mike Dunleavy (34) get tangled up during the second half of Game 6 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Thursday, April 30, 2015, in Milwaukee. Carter-Williams was called for a technical foul on the play.
Associated Press



Federer beats Gimeno-Traver to reach Istanbul semifinals

ISTANBUL (AP) — Top-seeded Roger Federer overcame some sloppy serving to beat unseeded Daniel Gimeno-Traver of Spain 7-6 (3), 6-7 (5), 6-3 and reach the Istanbul Open semifinals on Friday. Federer, who dropped his serve twice, missed seven chances to break Gimeno-Traver for a second time in the second set. But the Swiss star saved four breaks points on his opening service game of the deciding set. Meanwhile, second-seeded Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria advanced to the semis with a 6-4, 6-3 win against Croatia's Ivan Dodig, and will play third-seeded Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay. He beat Thomaz Bellucci 7-5, 6-3, breaking the Brazilian's serve twice in each set. Federer, who trailed 5-2 in the second set, was not at his best. But he picked up his game when it mattered, rallying from 40-15 down in the eighth game to break Gimeno-Traver for 5-3 and



Roger Federer of Switzerland plays a return during a quarter final tennis match against Daniel Gimeno-Traver of Spain during the Istanbul Open tennis tournament at Garanti Koza Arena in Istanbul, Turkey, Friday, May 1, 2015.

Associated Press

then served out the match. The 17-time Grand Slam champion, who needed 2 hours, 28 minutes to win, next faces eighth-seeded Diego Schwartzman of Argentina, who beat fourth-seeded Santiago Giraldo of Colombia 0-6, 6-2, 6-2. While Federer is chasing his 85th career title and third this year, Schwartzman

reached his first career semifinal, despite winning just seven points in the entire first set and trailing 2-0 in the second set. "I lost the first eight games. He started really well and maybe I was a little nervous," Schwartzman said. "The crowd was amazing for me, I hope tomorrow will be the same." □

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MON-THURS 5:00 | 8:05 | 9:20
FRI 5:00 | 8:05 | 9:20 | 11:10
SAT 2:00 | 5:00 | 8:05 | 9:20 | 11:10
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FRI 5:10
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FURIOUS 7
PG-13

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MON-THURS 5:30 | 7:30 | 8:30
FRI 5:30 | 7:30 | 8:30 | 10:30 | 11:30
SAT 2:30 | 5:30 | 7:30 | 8:30
10:30 | 11:30
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 5:30 | 7:30 | 8:30

PAUL BLART MALL COP 2
PG

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10
FRI 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:20
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HOME
PG

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 5:00 | 7:10
FRI 5:00 | 7:10
SAT 2:50 | 5:00 | 7:10
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:00 | 7:10

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MON-THURS 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35
FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
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Baffert is loaded with 2 blazing colts for Kentucky Derby

BETH HARRIS

AP Racing Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Bob Baffert hopes he's celebrating in the winner's circle at the Kentucky Derby. He just doesn't know which horse or owners would join him.

After all, the trainer has the two top favorites for Saturday's race.

American Pharoah, owned by Egyptian Ahmed Zayat, is the early 5-2 favorite for the 141st Derby off an eight-length victory in the Arkansas Derby.

Dortmund is the 3-1 second choice. He's owned by India-born Kaleem Shah, now a U.S. citizen whose pride for his adopted country is evident in the red, white and blue silks his chestnut colt wears.

"Coming in here we feel really strong," Baffert said. "If you get beat, the fall is pretty steep."

American Pharoah dominated his competition leading to the Derby, winning his last four races by a combined 22 1/4 lengths. Baffert calls him "brilliant," but he's yet to be tested in the kind of fractious conditions the Derby offers. He will be ridden by Victor Espinoza, who won last year aboard California Chrome. "If American Pharoah breaks a step slow, he's going to find himself in a situation that he has not faced before," said Mark Casse, who trains 30-1 shot Danzig Moon.

Dortmund stands an imposing 5 feet, 8 inches from the ground to near his shoulder blades and is a son of 2008 Derby winner Big Brown. He is undefeated in six races against tougher competition than his stablemate faced. Martin Garcia works out American Pharoah in the mornings but rides Dortmund in the race.

"This is an exciting, exciting field," Zayat said. "It's fun to have the best of the best running against each other."

A full field of 20 was reduced to 19 for 1 1/4-mile race after El Kabeir was scratched Saturday. His left front foot was bother-



Kentucky Derby favorite American Pharoah, ridden by exercise rider Jorge Alvarez, gallops at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky., Thursday, April 30, 2015.

Associated Press

ing him Friday and the colt trained by John Terranova was sore coming out of his stall the next day. His absence means Calvin Borel, a three-time Derby winner, won't ride.

Todd Pletcher brings three horses to the race: Carpe Diem, the 8-1 third choice; Florida Derby winner Materiality; and Itsaknockout, fittingly running on the same day as the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Manny Pacquiao fight in Las Vegas.

"We're ready," Pletcher said. "Let's go."

Materiality didn't run as a 2-year-old and no horse since Apollo in 1882 has won the Derby without racing as a sophomore. His pedigree suggests he could overcome the jinx: his sire Afleet Alex won the Preakness and Belmont in 2005.

Blue Grass winner Carpe

Diem cost \$1.6 million and a win in the Derby (worth \$1.4 million) would help his owners recoup most of their investment. John Velazquez clearly saw something in the colt because he chose to ride Carpe Diem instead of Materiality in the Derby. But he will have to overcome the No. 2 post; getting away from the starting gate quickly could minimize the chance of getting trapped inside.

This year's field is deep and talented, and absent Baffert's dynamic duo, there are other horses with solid credentials who in a different year would be more highly regarded.

Among them:

—Mubtaahij, an Ireland-bred trying to win the Derby by preparing outside the U.S. and then traveling halfway around the world to reach Louisville. He won

the UAE Derby by eight lengths and his South African trainer Mike de Kock is highly regarded.

—Firing Line, a colt that twice had photo-finish defeats to Dortmund before winning the Sunland Derby by 14 lengths in track-record time.

—International Star, a versatile colt that swept the trio of Derby preps at the Fair Grounds in New Orleans. He has tactical speed to get good position, helpful in a crowded race. "He's razor sharp and rarin' to go," trainer Mike Maker said. "Show up at 5:45 tomorrow and he'll put all your questions to bed."

—Frosted, the Wood Memorial winner, is owned by a member of the ruling family of Dubai. Godolphin Racing is 0 for 7 in previous Derby tries, but this time Sheikh Mohammad had his

horse prep in the U.S.

—Upstart beat Frosted in the Holy Bull and finished second behind Materiality in the Florida Derby.

Baffert jokes that it's been so long since the last of his three Derby victories in 2002 that he doesn't remember. He knows, though, what a horse must do if it is to wear the garland of red roses. "You need to get a decent post, break well, get the trip," he said. "It's the toughest field I've been involved in since Silver Charm (in 1997)."

American Pharoah, Dortmund, Carpe Diem and Materiality have combined to win 17 of 19 races, including a 10-0 mark this year.

"The hype is over with," said Ken Ramsey, who owns International Star. "It's time for potential to develop into performance."q

New site, app, links celebrities, charities and donors

ANTHONY McCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chatting on the red carpet with Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence; recording a country song with Clint Black; working a relief mission with Patricia Arquette; receiving a serenade from Michael Bolton on a Caribbean island. These are just some of the WOW! moments possible for everyday donors through a new online charity service that combines star power with digital marketing savvy to contribute millions to celebrity causes worldwide.

Its name is Chideo — a mashup of the words charity and video — and it's already enlisted more than 100 VIP participants, ranging from YouTubers and sports figures to Academy Award winners like Arquette, who gave a shout-out to the effort at this year's Oscars.

The aim is to move charitable fundraising away from direct mail pleas, teary telethons and heart-tugging commercials and into the digital age of short, entertaining videos, online fan contests and donations sent from web browsers and smartphones. In the near future, Chideo's content will appear on newscasts of Sinclair Broadcast Group's 162 television stations.

Chideo is part of founder Todd Wagner's plan to



This Thursday, April 16, 2015 photo shows Todd Wagner in his company office, Chideo, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

build a network not unlike the ones that have made him one of the country's richest men, except that this one would be devoted to causes.

"If you can have a Military Channel and a History Channel, I don't see any reason there can't be a 'Cause Network,'" said Wagner, who started his own foundation for underprivileged children in 2000, the year after he and sports and media tycoon Mark Cuban sold their startup Broadcast.com for \$5.7 billion.

An announcement Friday by the Muscular Dystrophy

Association to end its long-running Labor Day telethon underscored the challenges facing traditional fundraising methods. The group said it was shifting its efforts online because its airtime has been dramatically scaled back in recent years. The group said it's in discussions with former host Jerry Lewis about ways to release some of the star-studded telethon's archival footage online.

Wagner, 54, said he tried to engage charities years ago to become more tech-savvy, but found that while groups listened politely to his ideas, they were more

concerned with getting his donation.

"I felt that I had more to give than just writing a check," he said. "More than anything, (Chideo) is me saying, 'I'm just going to build this thing. I'm going to build what I believe will help these organizations and they just need to plug into it.'"

Online donations remain a fraction of the money raised by charitable causes. Wagner said online giving accounts for only eight percent of total charitable contributions, and some estimates peg the number even lower.

"Every month, there's a new amazing (technology) thing. Well, how can a (charity) possibly keep up in that world," Wagner said during a recent interview in Chideo's Los Angeles office.

In many ways, Wagner is building on past business successes. He's co-owner, along with Cuban, in a variety of companies, including 2929 Entertainment, Magnolia Pictures, AXS TV and Landmark Theatres. That provides access to sports and entertainment stars and other dignitaries. Chideo is making an impression beyond its smartphone app and website. On Monday, hours after TLC's Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins performed a private fundraising concert at the Grammy Museum, celeb-

rity blogger PerezHilton posted videos provided by Chideo from the show. Arquette plugged Chideo during a red carpet interview with Ryan Seacrest before winning her supporting actress Oscar for "Boyhood" in February.

"We haven't even started. We're still in preseason as to where I think this can go," Wagner says.

Most of Chideo's video content is free, but the site encourages donations to enter contests such as last month's "Serena" premiere event where two fans met Cooper and Lawrence on the red carpet. Eighty percent of the revenue goes to the charity, while the site keeps the remainder for its operations. Donations above the asking price go completely to the charity. Brooklyn, New York, resident Michelle Aguda's entry in Chideo's "Serena" contest earned her and a friend a spot on the film's red carpet, standing between stars Cooper and Lawrence. The film was released by Wagner's Magnolia Pictures.

Aguda, 23, set out to win the event after learning about it from Lawrence's Instagram feed. Aguda's \$100 bid got her 40 entries. "When I found out I won, I was speechless," Aguda said. She brought a longtime friend to the premiere and spent several minutes talking to the actors. □

Angry Birds to help save their counterparts in South Pacific

MATTI HUUHTANEN

Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — Angry Birds are getting angrier, because some of their real-life colorful counterparts in the South Pacific are facing extinction.

Rovio, the creator of the hugely popular Angry Birds games, said Thursday that it's teaming up with nature conservationist group BirdLife to disseminate information and help collect funds to protect birds in the region that are particularly

vulnerable to attacks by non-native predators introduced by humans, such as rats.

Some of the endangered bird species are the Polynesian Ground-dove, the Tahiti Monarch and the Tūamotu Sandpiper, named after an island chain in French Polynesia, according to Cambridge, England-based BirdLife.

In the mobile game, downloaded more than 2.8 billion times, angry birds' eggs are also threatened by

predators, the mischievous pigs.

The Finnish company is launching the campaign as part of its latest Angry Birds seasons update "Tropical Paradise," featuring 26 new levels in a paradise setting of the Pacific islands.

"The update theme aims to support BirdLife International's efforts to save the endangered Angry Birds of the Pacific and raise awareness to prevent the extinction of these birds," Rovio said, adding that



Sept. 20, 2012 photo from files of Angry Birds toy figures displayed at the Angry Birds company Rovio headquarters in Espoo, Finland.

Associated Press

Small, midsize SUVs drive April US auto sales gains

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Hot sales of small and midsize SUVs drove auto sales higher last month as General Motors, Ford, Toyota, Fiat Chrysler and Nissan all reported U.S. sales gains.

Several of the companies reported their best April totals in years. Overall, sales were mostly in line with analysts' predictions of a 6 percent increase compared with a year ago. All automakers were scheduled to report sales on Friday.

day.

Buyers, buoyed by lower gasoline prices, flocked to crossover SUVs that handle like cars and sit up higher. The gains came at the expense of many small and midsize cars.

"The demand for crossover SUVs is off the charts," said Bill Fay, a Toyota group vice president.

Erich Merkle, Ford's top sales analyst, said small SUVs accounted for almost 19 percent of industry sales last month, two percentage points higher than a

year ago. General Motors Co., the top-selling automaker in the U.S., posted a 5.9 percent increase and sold 269,000 vehicles. Sales of the Chevrolet Equinox midsize SUV rose 42 percent to nearly 29,000, while sales of the Buick Encore small SUV gained 29 percent to nearly 5,600. But the Chevrolet Malibu midsize car fell nearly 13 percent, while sales of the Chevy Cruze compact dropped nearly 4 percent. Ford Motor Co. posted a 5 percent gain for its best April in nine years.

The Dearborn, Michigan, automaker sold more than 222,000 cars and trucks last month, led by record SUV sales.

The revamped Ford Edge midsize SUV posted its best April sales ever at just over 13,000, up 78 percent from a year ago. Ford sold 26,000 Escape small SUVs, up nearly 5 percent. But sales of the Fusion midsize car and Focus compact car both fell.

Sales of the F-Series pickup, Ford's top-selling vehicle, fell 1 percent to 63,000.

The company continues to ramp up production of a new model with an aluminum body. Selling prices for the F-Series averaged a record \$42,600, with lower monthly payments due to longer loans driving purchases of loaded-out trucks.

GM sold 46,000 Chevrolet Silverado pickups, its best-seller, for a gain of nearly an 8 percent. Sales of the Ram pickup, Fiat Chrysler U.S. LLC's top-selling vehicle, rose 3 percent to just under 38,000. □

Wall Street closes bumpy week on a high note

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market bounced back on Friday as investors picked up companies that had dropped earlier in the week. Major indexes recovered nearly all their losses from a fall the day before.

"It's an odd day in the markets," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank. The news out Friday was mostly disappointing, he said. Big corporations' earnings reports weren't all that good.

Expedia was an exception. The online travel company turned in sales that topped Wall Street's estimates, driving its stock up \$7.46, or 8 percent, to \$101.69.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed 22.78 points, or 1.1 percent, to finish at 2,108.29. That's after dropping 1 percent the day before.



Thomas Kay, left, works with fellow traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The stock market bounced back on Friday as investors picked up companies that had dropped earlier in the week.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

The Dow Jones industrial

average gained 183.54 points, or 1 percent, to 18,024.06, while the Nas-

daq composite rose 63.97 points, 1.3 percent, to 5,005.39.

Charlie Smith, chief investment officer at Fort Pitt Capital Group, cautioned against reading too much into a day with light trading. "The rally is fun," he said, "but it doesn't mean much."

The Nasdaq lost 1.7 percent for the week as investors sold many of the technology companies that have fared well this year. Strong gains for Apple and other tech stocks helped the Nasdaq finally topple a record high last Friday. So, what changed?

Smith said Apple's earnings had something to do with it. Apple is big enough that its moves can swing the Nasdaq higher or lower. Last week, investors bought Apple's stock in anticipation of another blowout earnings report when the tech giant reported results Monday. □

US factory activity improves in April, but hiring declines

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. factories expanded in April at the same pace as in March, but manufacturers are starting to curtail hiring in a possible sign of weakness.

The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, said Friday that its manufacturing index was unchanged at 51.5.

The index had dropped in the prior five months. Still, any reading above 50 sig-

nals expansion.

U.S. manufacturers have faced a drag in recent months from falling oil prices and a stronger dollar. The drop in oil prices has cut into demand for pipelines and equipment used by drillers and energy companies. At the same time, the dollar has risen in value over the past year against the euro and other currencies, causing American-made goods to be more expensive abroad and hurting exports.

The drag from the since-re-

solved West Coast ports disruption continues, as shipments have been delayed because of a labor dispute that was largely settled in February and March.

New orders and productivity improved in April, but the employment component of the index slipped below 50 to 48.3. The drop in the employment indicator could indicate less hiring ahead and even the possibility of layoffs or it could be a blip. The U.S. economy barely grew in the first three months of 2015, with gross

domestic product rising at an annual rate of 0.2 percent.

Bradley Holcomb, chairman of the ISM's manufacturing business survey committee, said he expects factory employment to rebound.

"It's more of tapping the brakes to assess where this manufacturing economy and overall economy going," he said. "We're obviously off to a slow start in the first quarter."

Still, some manufacturers say they are struggling

to find workers. Employers have added 3.1 million jobs over the past year, cutting the unemployment rate to a relatively low 5.5 percent from 6.6 percent. The hiring surge has made it increasingly difficult to find talented employees without increasing wages.

One furniture manufacturer said in the ISM survey that it "remains difficult to find qualified individuals."

There are signs that the negative impact of a stronger dollar is lessening for factories. □

The Numbers Come First



JOE NOCERA
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In June, for the third time since 2012, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, an export credit agency that backs loans to foreign entities that help cement deals with U.S. exporters - and thus helps create American jobs - must be reauthorized by Congress. Otherwise it will go out of business.

For most of its existence, the Ex-Im Bank wasn't even remotely controversial; it would be routinely reauthorized for four to seven years at a time. Its underwriting was - and remains - impeccable, with a default rate of under 2 percent. With dozens of other countries using their own export credit agencies to help home-grown companies land deals, the Ex-Im Bank was viewed as an important equalizer for U.S. companies, especially small businesses, which often can't find funding when they want to sell their goods in foreign markets.

But in the past few years, prodded in part by Delta Air Lines, which objects to the lending assistance the Ex-Im Bank gives to foreign purchasers of Boeing aircraft, Tea Party Republicans have agitated to shut it down. In doing so, they have turned the fight over the Ex-Im Bank into an ideological litmus test. The bank's dealings with Boeing, they claim, are an example of "crony capitalism." The bank is in the business of picking "winners and losers," something the government shouldn't be doing, they say. It gets in the way of truly free markets. The last time the Ex-Im Bank was up for reauthorization, in September, Republicans grudgingly agreed to a short-term extension. Now its opponents are moving in for the kill.

Leading the charge are the conservative think tanks, like the Heritage Foundation and Americans for Prosperity, which just the other day sponsored a conference call with Sen. - and presidential candidate - Marco Rubio, who described the agency's work as "corporate welfare."

There is, however, one conservative think tank that has refused to join the crowd: the five-year-old American Action Forum, or AAF, co-founded and led by economist Douglas Holtz-Eakin. Since May, it has issued a series of reports making the case that the country is better off with the Ex-Im Bank than without it. Given the way apostasy is treated among conservative ideologues,

this struck me as courageous.

As it turns out, Holtz-Eakin doesn't view the American Action Forum's stance as especially courageous.

"I am a conservative," he stressed - and most of the policy positions his think tank takes, on issues like tax policy and regulation, are unambiguously conservative.

"But," he added, "I think too many conservative arguments are made on the basis of ideology and faith. We are dedicated to the numbers at AAF. We can't just assert that markets work; we have to show it."

Simply put, his think tank supports the Ex-Im Bank because that's where the numbers - and the facts - led it.

Holtz-Eakin, 57, has held a number of important policy jobs in government. He was part of the Council of Economic Advisers under both Presidents Bush, the second time as its lead economist. He was an adviser to Sen. John McCain during his presidential race. And between 2003 and 2005, he was the director of the Congressional Budget Office, which places a high premium on just-the-facts-ma'am numbers and research.

"It is really important to have that kind of information in any sort of policy debate," Holtz-Eakin told me. Thus it is that Holtz-Eakin believes that immigration reform should reward skills and let in more immigrants.

"The data shows that immigration offers great opportunity as an economic policy," he said.

As a member of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, he refused to sign on to the right wing's pet theory that the entire crisis could be blamed on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. "I have no love of Fannie and Freddie," he said. "But they weren't the sole cause of the crisis." As for the Ex-Im Bank, Holtz-Eakin decided to get his think tank involved last year, as the agency became a hot-button issue among conservatives. He directed a young research associate, Andy Winkler, to do a series of deep dives into the Ex-Im Bank; that research led the American Action Forum to support its continued existence. "It would be a negative if we got rid of it," Holtz-Eakin says.

The most recent piece of research by Winkler showed that, far from being in the back pocket of big companies like Boeing, the Ex-Im Bank made loans that were an accurate reflection of U.S. trade itself. Big companies make up a small percentage of the corporations that export goods, but they account for a high volume of the dollars involved. The vast majority of exporters are small businesses, although their aggregate dollar volume is much smaller. The Ex-Im Bank's loan portfolio is in about the same ratio.

Winkler, who is 24, came to the American Action Forum straight out of college. What have you learned from working with Holtz-Eakin? I asked him.

"The numbers come first," he replied. □



Presidential Primary Book Club



GAIL COLLINS
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Concerned citizens bear many great burdens, one of which is trying to follow a presidential race in which virtually every candidate has written one or more books about their lives, hopes, dreams, theories - and, in the case of Mike Huckabee, diets.

You cannot possibly read them all. It is very likely you don't want to read any. That's what we are here for. Today: Marco Rubio.

Rubio is 43, and he has already written an autobiography ("An American Son") and a book on policy ("American Dreams"). Do not feel compelled to go back and look at "100 Innovative Ideas for Florida's Future."

Right now, we're going to concentrate on the autobiography, which is a great corrective for anyone under the impression that Rubio had an impoverished childhood. His parents, working-class Cuban immigrants, most definitely did struggle financially. But Rubio makes it clear none of the struggling trickled down to him: He lived a "charmed, happy life" and was, in fact, "an insufferably demanding kid."

Kudos for candor, Marco Rubio! He certainly did have a talent for getting his way. Rubio's family were Mormon converts, but, when Marco was about 12, he argued that everyone should go back to Catholicism. Which they did. He then requested that he

and his sister be allowed to go to Catholic school, and his parents agreed, even though it was a financial stretch. Marco soon decided he didn't like it and successfully demanded a transfer to the local public school.

Besides his extremely cooperative relatives, the most vivid characters in the book are probably the Miami Dolphins, who come up all the time. Although his sister and fiancée won positions as cheerleaders, Rubio's own hopes of making the team were quashed by reality. But not before he tried to pursue the dream by accepting a football scholarship to a 500-student private college in Missouri that was more than a two-hours' drive from Kansas City and flirting with bankruptcy.

Somewhere during freshman year, he seems to have gotten a grip, and it was back to Florida, community college and then upward and onward through law school. At this point, with his early flaws corrected, Rubio starts confessing that he was a bad boyfriend to his future wife, Jeanette, and later, an absentee father as his political career took off.

But all of Rubio's faults, it turns out, are personal. Politically, he has no regrets. He manages to go from a youthful labor union enthusiast to Tea Party poster boy without any hint of internal struggle. And while the book is jammed with details about polls and campaign staff shake-ups and fundraising, it's often weirdly apolitical. The first time Rubio says he felt "a genuine desire to engage in federal policy debates" was in 2008 when Barack Obama was elected president, and he was already a former speaker of the Florida House of Representatives.

Rubio was elected to the state Legislature at 28, and he made it to speaker in six years. (Florida has eight-year term limits, so there's actually no such thing as a slow, steady climb to power.)

When he arrived, the governor was Jeb Bush, who Rubio describes as pretty much the best person in the universe. Later, when he was considering a race for an open Senate seat, Rubio dutifully checked first to see if Jeb was interested.

"If he were to run, no one would challenge him in the primary - certainly not me," he wrote.

Ah, history.

Rubio clashed with Bush's successor, Charlie Crist, over Rubio's idea - the first of those we're really hearing about - for eliminating all property taxes in favor of higher sales taxes. It was an early harbinger of Rubio's antipathy for taxation according to the ability to pay, but Crist successfully countered with a much more modest proposal.

Their other big battle involved Crist's ambitious efforts to fight global warming. Rubio's discussion of this entire issue takes up two paragraphs, and despite the fact that Florida is absolutely awash in the effects of climate change, it's the only mention of the subject in his autobiography. Also - spoiler alert - it's not going to come up at all in his policy book.

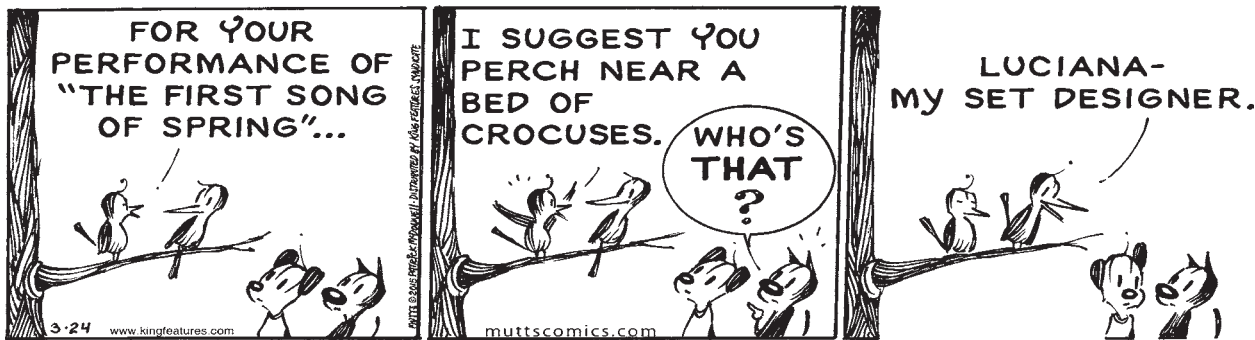
Meanwhile, that Senate race is looming. Crist is running, too, and the first part of Rubio's campaign seems to mainly consist of whining. ("Why would God put me in this position?") God figures a lot in this story, and although Rubio says he knows "God didn't endorse candidates," he does make it pretty clear that he knows who would win if God had an absentee ballot.

Triumph! Marco Rubio is off to the Senate in 2011. His career there takes up only five pages.

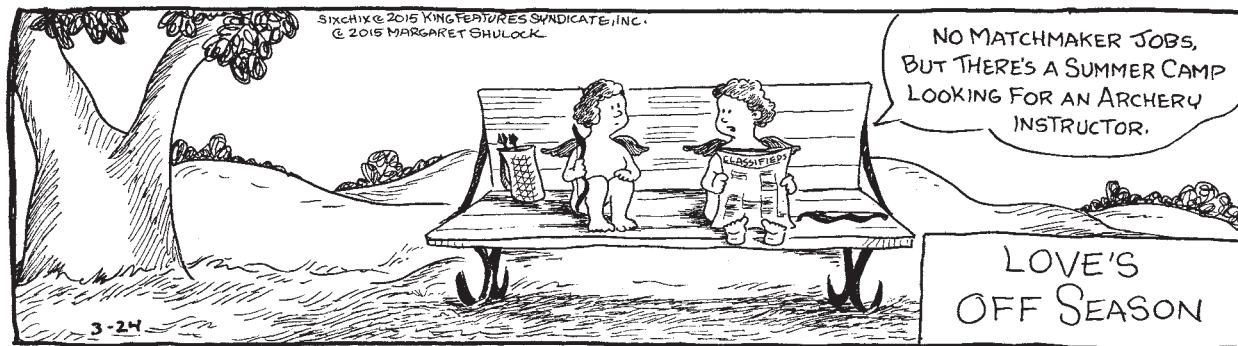
"What has surprised me the most," he confides to readers who have stayed with him until the bitter end, "is that life as a U.S. senator is pretty much what I expected it to be."

Go, Dolphins. □

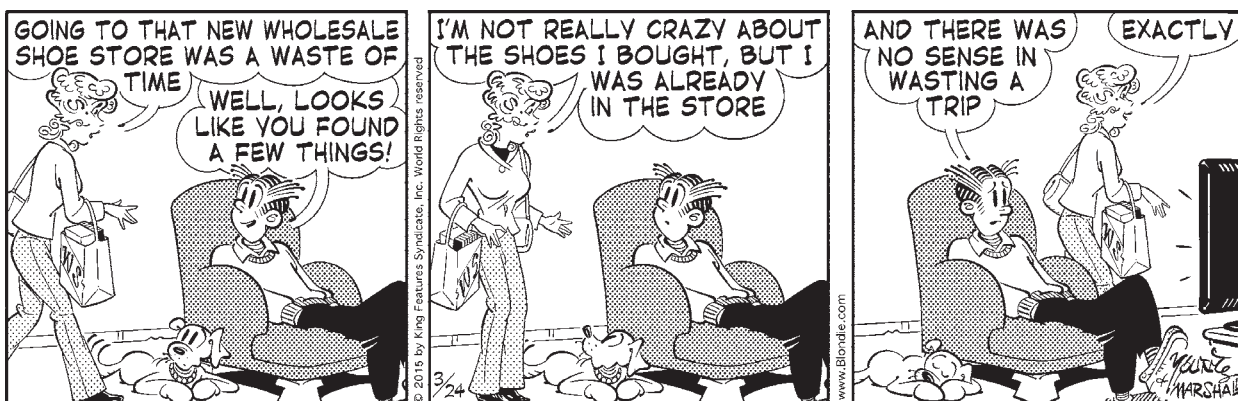
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



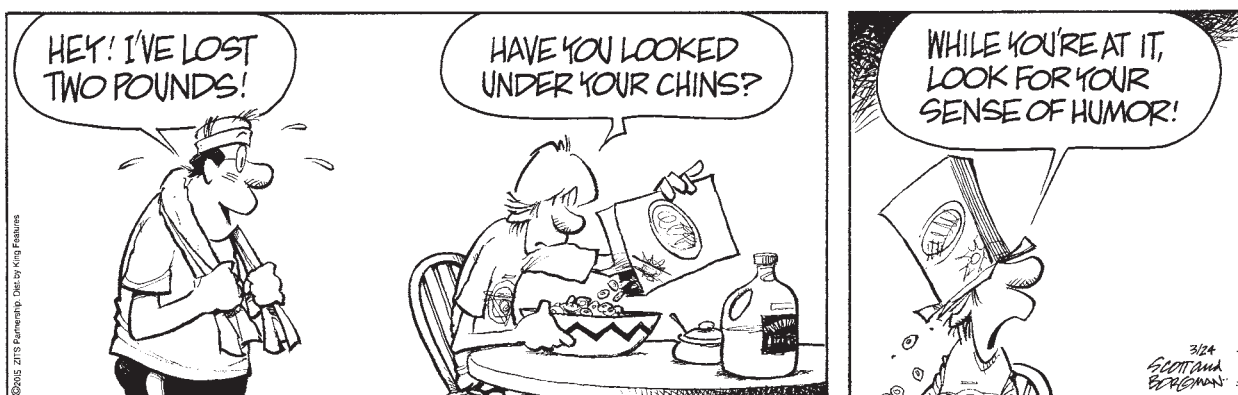
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			6		4			
	2						3	
3			7	2	5			8
2		5				3		1
		1				8		
8		4				6		7
1			2	4	8			6
	9						4	
			1		7			

Difficulty Level ★★

3/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

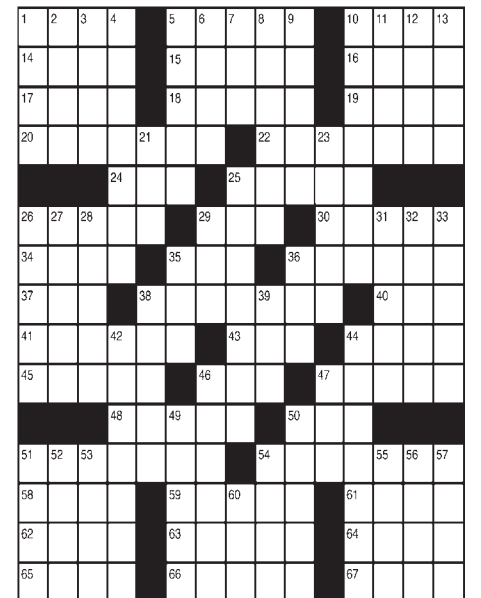
5	2	9	6	3	1	8	4	7
8	1	3	4	9	7	6	5	2
4	7	6	8	5	2	1	3	9
6	5	4	9	1	3	7	2	8
7	9	1	2	8	4	5	6	3
3	8	2	7	6	5	4	9	1
9	4	8	1	2	6	3	7	5
1	3	7	5	4	9	2	8	6
2	6	5	3	7	8	9	1	4

ACROSS

- Actor Alan
- Fragrance
- Pantry stackables
- Bank's offering
- Speed; fast driver
- Sandusky's state
- Tap a golf ball
- Intended
- Cola
- Soaked
- scale; quake gauge
- Convent dweller
- Not shy about speaking up
- Ford or Close
- Edison's initials
- Gets closer to
- Dance at a bar mitzvah
- 747, for one
- Small beard
- Highest club
- Novice
- "Maria"
- Cheese-topped tortilla chips
- Actor's signal
- Ran away
- Church table
- Lynx or lion
- Capsules
- Beauty shop
- Olive Oyl's hairdo
- Fell fast asleep after a night of partying
- Football pass
- Gray wolf
- in; inserted
- Long story
- Sir Guinness
- Injured arm support
- Falling flakes
- Writing table
- Not relaxed
- Breakfast order
- Swiss skier's milieu
- Yrbk. section

DOWN

- Swiss skier's milieu
- Yrbk. section



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/24/15

Monday's Puzzle Solved

EARTH	CLAD	SCAN
ALOHA	ROPE	CAFE
TEARS	ERRS	RITE
SCRUBBED	PRUNED	
SEAL	COOPERS	
RACHEL	TOTAL	
OUR	NEARS	DEALS
TRAP	DIETS	SHOP
SAGAS	LASER	ONE
SOWED	WASTED	
MUSTARD	VEIL	
ENTIRE	TERMINAL	
ADAM	ACHE	EVAN
LUGE	TOUR	NERDS
SEES	HOGS	TRYST

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3/24/15

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 36 "Wow!" | 51 in; wearing |
| 38 Sacred scroll | 52 Actor's part |
| 39 Kook | 53 Lincoln and Vigoda |
| 42 Ottoman | 54 Camera's eye |
| 44 Skill; dexterity | 55 Chimed |
| 46 Pamper | 56 Very eager |
| 47 off; delay | 57 Statutes |
| 49 Minimum | 60 Clamor |
| 50 Sheriff's star | |

Health insurance deadline passes for most, but there are exceptions

ANN CARRNS
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The last chance to sign up for health insurance this year under the Affordable Care Act passed Thursday, when an extended deadline for enrollment expired.

While most people will have to wait until the next open enrollment period in the fall, there is an exception for those who have a change in circumstances - like losing your health coverage because of the loss of a job, or getting married or having a baby. The official end of the open enrollment period for coverage was Feb. 15. But the federal government announced a special enrollment period that extended the deadline until April 30 because many people did not understand that they would have to pay a penalty for failure to get coverage before the deadline.

The reality hit home only when they filed their 2014 income taxes, which asked about health coverage and, for the first time, assessed a penalty.

Thousands of people took advantage of the extended deadline, which was available through HealthCare.gov - the federal marketplace - as well as through most state-run marketplaces. Some state marketplaces set different deadlines - Vermont's isn't until May 31, for instance - so it is best to check with the exchange in your state, according to the health care enrollment coalition Enroll America.

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which oversees the federal exchange, said that as of April 13, about 68,000 people had signed up under the extension.

Among other reasons for eligibility for special enrollment exception are a change in income or a release from prison. Cathy Kaufmann, enrollment program director for Families USA, an advocacy group, said that many people did not realize that

moving to a state that does not offer your current plan also qualifies as reason for signing up outside the open enrollment period.

If you do become eligible for coverage for any reason during the remainder of the year, it makes sense to take a look at available plans. Penalties for not having coverage are getting stiffer, said Karen Pollitz, a health policy expert with the Kaiser Family Foundation, a nonpartisan research group.

For instance, in 2014, the penalty for a single person was a minimum of \$95 or 1 percent of income (income over a threshold of about \$10,000 is used to calculate the penalty), whichever is larger. □

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Study: Global warming to push 1 in 13 species to extinction

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Global warming will eventually push 1 out of every 13 species on Earth into extinction, a new study projects. It won't quite be as bad in North America, where only 1 in 20 species will be killed off because of climate change or Europe where the extinction rate is nearly as small. But in South America, that forecasted heat-caused extinction rate soars to 23 percent, the worst for any continent, according to a new study published Thursday in the journal Science.

University of Connecticut ecologist Mark Urban compiled and analyzed 131 peer-reviewed studies on species that used various types of computer simulations and found a general average extinction rate for the globe: 7.9 percent. That's an average for all species, all regions, taking into consideration various assumptions about future emission trends of man-made greenhouse gases. The extinction rate calcu-



This handout photo, taken Aug. 17, 2005, provided by the US Geological Survey/Princeton University shows an American pika.

lation doesn't mean all of those species will be gone; some will just be on an irreversible decline, dwindling toward oblivion, he said. "It's a sobering result," Urban said. Urban's figures are prob-

ably underestimating the real rate of species loss a little, said scientists not affiliated with the research. That's because Urban only looks at temperature, not other factors like fire or interaction with other animals, and more studies have been done in North America and Europe, where rates are lower, said outside biologists Stuart Pimm of Duke University and Terry Root of Stanford University.

The projected extinction rate changes with time and how much warming there is from the burning of coal,

oil and gas. At the moment, the extinction rate is relatively low, 2.8 percent, but it rises with more carbon dioxide pollution and warmer temperatures, Urban wrote.

By the end of the century, in a worst case scenario if world carbon emission trends continue to rise, 1 in 6 species will be gone or on the road to extinction, Urban said. That's higher than the overall rate because that 7.9 percent rate takes into account some projections that the world will reduce or at least slow carbon dioxide emissions.

What happens is that species tend to move closer to the poles and up in elevation as it gets warmer, Urban said. But some species, especially those on mountains such as the American pika, run out of room to move and may die off because there's no place to escape the heat, Urban said. It's like being on an ever-shrinking island. Still, Pimm and Urban said the extinction from warming climates is dwarfed by a much higher extinction rate also caused by man: Habitat loss. A large extinction is going on, and for every species disappearing for natural causes, 1,000 are vanishing because of unnatural man-made causes, Pimm said.

"I don't know we're at the point where we can call it a mass extinction event, but we're certainly heading that way unless we change direction," Urban said. A separate study in the same journal looked at 23 million years of marine fossils to determine which water animals have the biggest extinction risk and where. Marine mammals, such as whales, dolphins and seals, have the highest risk. The Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, western Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean between Australia and Japan are hotspots for potential extinction, especially those caused by human factors, the study said. □

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Telethon that Jerry Lewis memorably ran pulls plug

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Muscular Dystrophy Association telethon is ending its annual Labor Day telethon, a television tradition for decades that has slowly disappeared from view since the sudden end of Jerry Lewis' role as host following the 2010 show.

The telethon was a relic from a different age, a tuxedoed Lewis oozing show biz schmaltz and hosting stars from Frank Sinatra to Jennifer Lopez over 45 years, pushing through his exhaustion to sing "You'll Never Walk Alone" as a tote board rang up millions of dollars in donations.

From 21 and a half hours in Lewis' final year, the show had been reduced two hours the last two years on ABC.

"It's not a 21-hour world anymore," said Steve Ford, MDA executive vice president, on Friday.

With television time costly, the MDA's fundraising efforts will move primarily online, he said. The success of a viral event like "The Ice Bucket Challenge" proves this is a potent area for philanthropy, he said.

"The real heroes have always been our families, and what we need to do is make sure that every dollar we raise is spent working for our families," he said.

The Labor Day tote board

hit a record of \$65 million in 2008, a figure Ford said reflected a full year's worth of fundraising activities capped off by the telethon. The MDA says the telethon itself has been responsible for more than \$2 billion in giving.

Lewis' abrupt exit, announced by the MDA a month before the 2011 telethon, was never fully explained. There was no immediate comment on Friday's announcement from the 89-year-old comedian's spokeswoman.

His history with the charity goes back nearly to its beginning: the MDA was started in 1950 and, a year later, Lewis and his comic partner Dean Martin mentioned the charity on their NBC show. The two comics hosted a 1956 telethon before breaking up. Lewis began hosting it regularly in 1966, starting on a single television station in New York.

The telethon was not without controversy; in the early 1990s it was picketed by a handful of disabled people who said people with the disease were being made objects of pity by Lewis in order to raise money.

Yet his roster through the years represented a who's who of entertainment, including a post-Beatles John Lennon, Michael Jackson singing with and without his brothers, Liberace, Johnny

Cash, Ray Charles and Celine Dion. Former Johnny Carson sidekick Ed McMahon filled the same role with Lewis on Labor Day for many years.

In 1976, Sinatra engineered a reunion of Lewis with Martin, his estranged former partner.

With years of telethon tapes, the MDA has the equivalent of years of show biz gold in its vaults. Ford said the MDA has been discussing with Lewis ways to release some of this archived material. □



In this Sept. 2, 1990 file photo, entertainer Jerry Lewis makes his opening remarks at the 25th Anniversary of the Jerry Lewis MDA Labor Day Telethon fundraiser in Los Angeles.

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‘Stand By Me’ singer Ben E. King dead at age 76

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ben E. King, the unforgettable lead singer for the Drifters and solo star whose plaintive baritone graced such pop and rhythm ‘n blues classics as “Stand by Me,” “There Goes My Baby” and “Spanish Harlem,” has died. He was 76.

King died Thursday of natural causes in Teaneck, New Jersey, his longtime residence, publicist Phil Brown told The Associated Press on Friday.

A native of North Carolina who moved to New York City as a boy, King was singing with the Five Crowns when they were hired in 1958 to become the new incarnation of the Drifters, a top act for Atlantic Records who had several doo-wop hits featuring tenor Clyde McPhatter. The new Drifters, their records among the first in the rock era to use strings, had a more polished production and vocal style and became key influences on numerous ‘60s recordings.

King co-wrote and sang

lead on “There Goes My Baby,” and he and the Drifters followed with such favorites as “Save the Last Dance for Me” and “This Magic Moment,” romantic and emotional ballads mostly written by the team of Doc Pomus and Mort Shuman.

Known for his warm smile and trim mustache, King didn’t stay long. He left the Drifters in the early ‘60s because of a dispute over salary and royalties, but quickly found success on his own. He broke through with “Spanish Harlem,” co-written by Phil Spector and Jerry Leiber, and sealed his name in music history with “Stand by Me.” A reworked gospel number co-written by King, Leiber and Mike Stoller, “Stand by Me” was a soaring declaration of dependence and devotion, chosen as one of the Songs of the Century by the Recording Industry Association of America and added earlier this year to the Library of Congress’ National Recording Registry.

John Lennon covered it in the 1970s and “Stand



In this June 30, 2006, file photo, Ben E. King performs on stage during the opening of the 40th Montreux Jazz Festival at the Stravinski hall in Montreux, Switzerland.

Associated Press

by Me” found new listeners in the ‘80s when it was featured in the Rob Reiner movie of the same name. The song returned to the charts and King appeared in a promotional music video along with cast members River Phoenix and Wil Wheaton.

“Of course, the kids who had never heard of a person called Ben E. King were then aware of the name associated with the song,” King told the web site classicbands.com in 1993.

“That gave a tremendous lift to me as an artist.” Like many early rock performers, King had seen his career fade when the Beatles and other British acts arrived in the mid-1960s. He did manage a hit during the disco era in the ‘70s with “Supernatural Thing” and continued to record and tour, including with an ‘80s edition of the Drifters. According to Billboard, he had 21 songs in the top 100 between 1961 and 1975. King and assorted other

Drifters were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988.

Ben E. King was a stage name. He was born Benjamin Earl Nelson in Henderson, North Carolina and moved to Harlem at age 9, giving him early exposure to both country and urban music. He sang in church and joined local street corner groups in Harlem, although admittedly as much to impress girls as for the music. By age 20, he and some friends had formed the Five Crowns, who shared a bill at the Apollo Theater with a previous version of the Drifters and were noticed by manager George Treadwell when he needed to recruit new singers.

“There was an honesty about all that was going on,” he told classicbands.com about his early career. “It connected with the people in the street. You were able to sing something they related to instantly, because it was part of what you felt. It was part of what you had already traveled through.” □

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